

# Superfund

## Solutions

JPL's Environmental Cleanup Effort

Number 1

August 1996

All of us involved in the Superfund Project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) want to express our sincere thanks to our neighbors in Altadena, La

### Good NEIGHBORS

Cañada-Flintridge, and Pasadena for your patience and understanding over the past several months. For those of

you who had to endure partially blocked streets, large tanks in your yards, or noisy drill rigs around the corner, we have some good news — we're finished! As of now, all of the scheduled offsite drilling for Superfund has been completed.

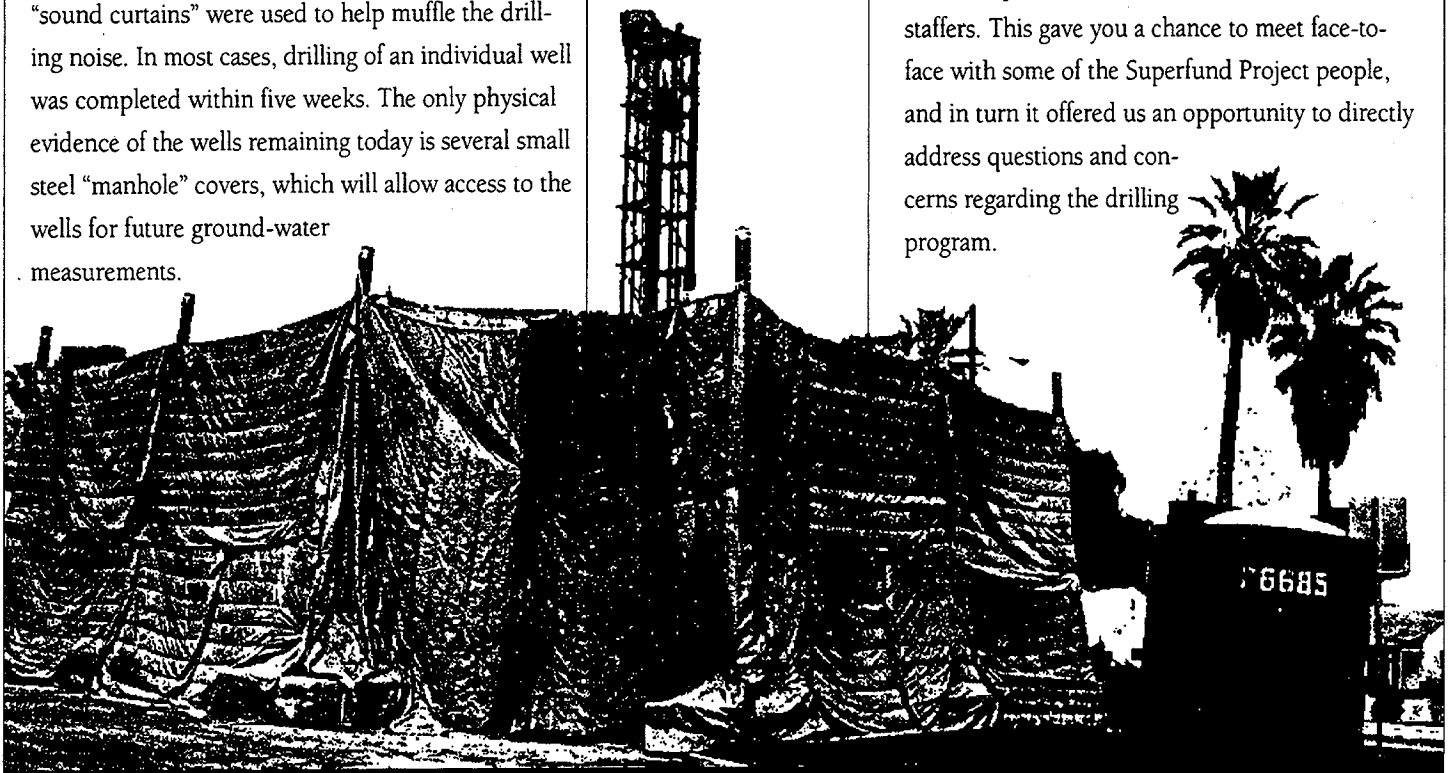
Those who encountered the drilling operation probably didn't see very much, because heavy "sound curtains" were used to help muffle the drilling noise. In most cases, drilling of an individual well was completed within five weeks. The only physical evidence of the wells remaining today is several small steel "manhole" covers, which will allow access to the wells for future ground-water measurements.

**BETWEEN  
GOOD  
NEIGHBORS  
THERE IS  
COOPERATION,  
THERE ARE  
SOLUTIONS**

The cooperation of the people who live in the neighborhoods surrounding JPL has really helped to make the drilling phase of the project possible. Throughout the Superfund process, the Laboratory has tried to foster this spirit of cooperation by maintaining open, two-way communication with all affected members of the community. The following paragraphs describe some of these communication avenues and tell you how to get involved in the environmental cleanup process.

### J o i n t COOPERATION

Some members of the community were more affected by the drilling than others. Of the five wells that were drilled offsite, one was located in Oak Grove Park, two on city streets in residential areas, one in the Windsor Reservoir area owned by the City of Pasadena, and one in the parking lot of the Altadena Seventh-Day Adventist Church. When drilling occurred in residential areas, letters explaining specific working hours, completion schedules, and steps taken to minimize the inconvenience were hand-delivered throughout the community by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and JPL staffers. This gave you a chance to meet face-to-face with some of the Superfund Project people, and in turn it offered us an opportunity to directly address questions and concerns regarding the drilling program.



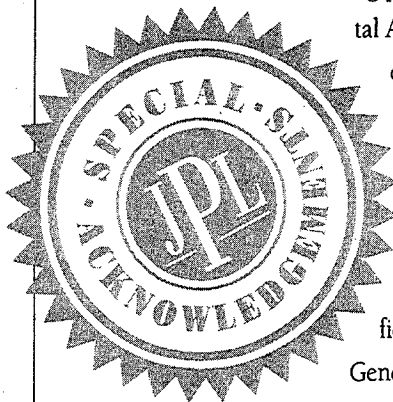
## ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP FACT SHEETS

A series of fact sheets with the title, *Environmental Cleanup Review*, were mailed out to area residents to provide information related to the Superfund process. The first fact sheet gave a brief history of the environmental concerns that led up to JPL's selection as a Superfund site. Later fact sheets covered such topics as how the Superfund process works (No. 2); soil and ground-water testing done on the JPL site (No. 3); and the three principal operational units of the ongoing remedial investigation/feasibility study at JPL (No. 4). If you missed one of these fact sheets or would like more copies, please contact the JPL Public Services Office or visit any specially designated public information repository (see back page).

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Special thanks go out to the clergy and congregation of the Altadena Seventh-Day Adventist Church. During the initial stages of the offsite drilling program, members of the JPL Environmental



Affairs and Public Affairs offices met with church members to reach an agreement on drilling a well in the church parking lot. NASA and JPL project managers were on hand to answer questions relating to the JPL Superfund activity. In some cases, interested neighbors talked directly with field crews while drilling was taking place.

Generally a positive experience both for the field crews and the members of the public, this represents the kind of cooperation that has helped to make the drilling program successful.

## SUPERFUND INFORMATION

There are a number of ways to get more information about Superfund. Federal Superfund regulations require *public information repositories*, places where the general public has access to documents relating to the Superfund project. In all of these repositories you will find a number of planning documents such as the health and safety, community relations, and field sampling and analysis plans for each operational unit of the project. In addition, these repositories include the results of current sampling as these reports become available.

Since much of the information in the repositories is technical, the Laboratory has developed a series of *Environmental Cleanup* information sheets to help you understand some of the issues related to Superfund. At this point, information sheets are available on the following subjects: Hydrology, Ground Water, Ground-Water Wells, Soil, and Hazardous Chemicals. For copies of any of these information sheets, contact the JPL Public Services Office; we will send them to you free of charge.

AT THIS POINT,  
WE HAVE  
INFORMATION  
SHEETS ON

HYDROLOGY

GROUND WATER

GROUND-WATER  
WELLS

SOIL

HAZARDOUS  
CHEMICALS

# SOLUTIONS

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

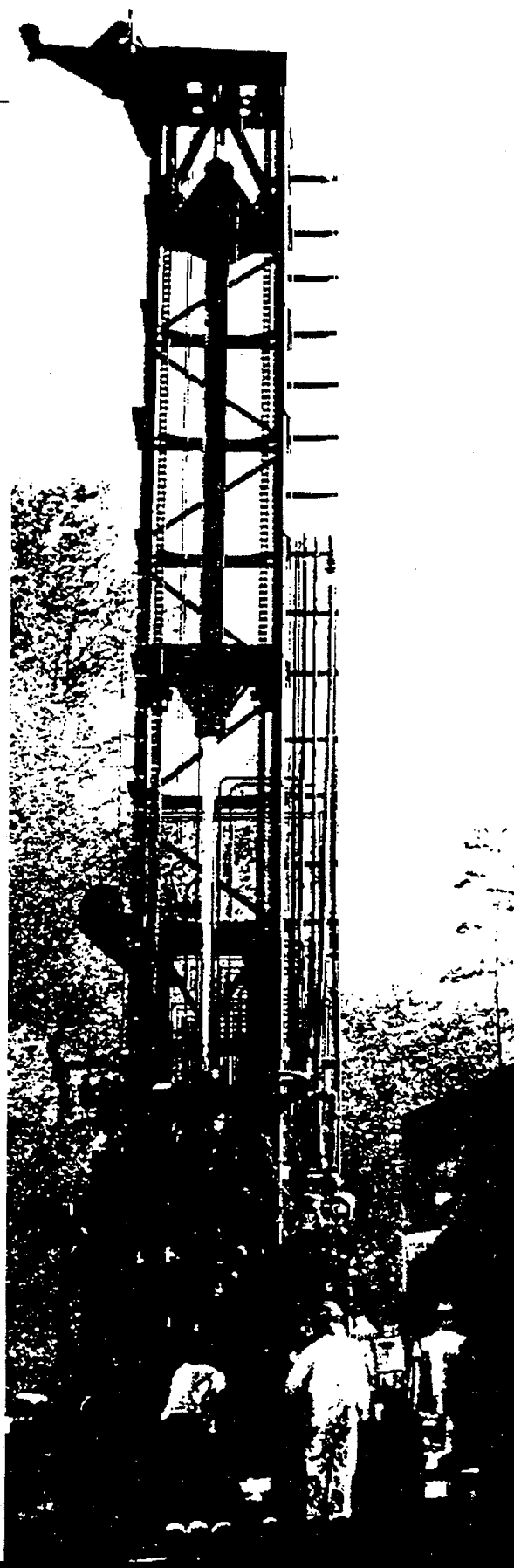
**A**t JPL, the Superfund project is currently in the remedial investigation/feasibility study stage, designed to find out where the contamination is coming from, the extent of the contamination problem, and whether or not the contamination poses a risk to human health, and to determine the best options for dealing with the problem.

Now that the drilling of all off-site ground water-monitoring wells has been completed, the only remaining field work is to sample the ground water on a regular basis. This operation should take less than a day at each well, usually involving no more than a "pickup" truck mounted with some specialized sampling gear and a small electric generator. The purpose of this sampling is to help us understand how ground water is moving, what chemicals are involved, and in what quantities (if any) these chemicals are present.

As our understanding of soil and ground-water contamination in and around JPL improves, we will begin to conduct a Risk Assessment. This part of the project evaluates the information obtained through the remedial investigation to determine exactly what risk is posed to human health and the environment. Based on this potential risk, the need for remedies will be determined. Once completed and approved by the regulatory agencies, the results of this Risk Assessment will be available in the public information repositories.

Completion of the remedial investigation/feasibility study will mark an important milestone in the Superfund process. After the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of California have reviewed the report, there will be a 30-day period for open public comment on any proposed remediation plan. JPL will attempt to notify all parties interested in the Laboratory's Superfund process.

Local public meetings will be held with the community during the public comment period. The purpose of these meetings is to solicit formal public comment and testimony before adopting a specific plan for cleanup. Any concerns identified will be addressed prior to the adoption of a final renewal plan. These meetings are an extremely important part of the Superfund process. Public meetings will be announced in local newspapers and by direct mailing to local residents. To receive notice of these meetings, please contact the JPL Public Services Office and ask to be placed on the Superfund mailing list.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

**A**s the cleanup effort progresses, JPL will keep neighbors informed of developments and solicit community feedback. Copies of documents related to the cleanup will be maintained and updated at these local public information repositories:

Altadena Public Library  
600 E. Mariposa St.  
Altadena

La Cañada-Flintridge  
Public Library  
4545 W. Oakwood Ave.  
La Cañada-Flintridge

Pasadena Central Library  
280 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena

For information on the  
environmental cleanup  
effort at JPL, and for  
ideas on how you can  
become involved, please  
contact:

Public Services Office  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 186-113  
4800 Oak Grove Dr.  
Pasadena, California  
91109-8099  
Tel: (818) 354-0112

The following local contacts represent  
agencies involved in the Superfund  
process:

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L.A. Regional Water Quality Control  
Board (RWQCB)  
101 Centre Plaza Dr.  
Monterey Park,  
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(213) 266-7538

Debbie Lowe  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
(EPA), Region IX  
75 Hawthorne St., M/S H-9-1  
San Francisco, California 94105  
(415) 744-2206

Penny Nakashima  
California EPA, Department of Toxic  
Substances Control (DTSC)  
1011 N. Grandview Ave.  
Glendale, California 91201  
(818) 551-2881



National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

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